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SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
5012 LENKER STREET
MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17055

STAFF REVIEW
OF
WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974
PUBLIC LAW 93-251

APRIL 11, 1974

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

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INTRODUCTION

The Water Resources Development Act of 1974 became P.L. 93-251 on March 7, 1974. The following summary is addressed to those provisions in the Act that affect the Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

TWO-STAGE AUTHORIZATION OF PROJECTS

The Act provides for authorization of major new projects in two stages. The first stage is known as the Phase I design memorandum stage of advanced engineering and design. The second stage involves the submittal to Congress of the design plan with any modifications together with the completed environmental impact statement for consideration of construction authorization.

DEAUTHORIZATION

The Act provides that the Secretary of the Army, through the Chief of Engineers, shall submit annually to Congress a list of projects which have been authorized for at least 8 years, for which no funds have been appropriated during that period, and which he determines, after consultation with officials of affected States and agencies, should no longer be authorized. Any such project will be deauthorized 180 days after submission unless either the Senate or House Public Works Committee adopts a resolution stating it should remain authorized. A further provision is that Members of the Senate and House would be notified in advance of the intent to put a project from their State on the list.

The following are Corps of Engineers Projects in the basin that have been authorized for at least 8 years:

<u>Name of Project</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Authorization Date</u>
Davenport Center Lake	New York	1938
West Oneonta Lake	New York	1938
Copes Corner Lake	New York	1938
S. Plymouth Lake	New York	1941
Genegantslet Lake	New York	1944
Fall Brook Lake	Pennsylvania	1962

In a telephone conversation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, it was stated that their Washington Offices are currently examining the Act to determine its effects on their programs.

PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS

The Act provides that the 1968 interest-discount rate and grandfather clause in effect prior to adoption of the new formula proposed by the Water Resources Council shall continue to apply until changed by law.

The President is authorized under the section to make a full and complete investigation and study of the principles and standards for planning water and related resources projects, with the study to be completed no later than one year after funds are first appropriated for the purpose. This provision has the effect of holding the rate at 5-5/8 per cent.

STREAMBANK EROSION CONTROL

The Act authorizes the Corps of Engineers to establish a streambank erosion control demonstration program. To be funded at a level of \$25 million over a five year period, it determines the causes and extent of such erosion and seeks to develop new methods and techniques for prevention and correction.

SMALL FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECTS

Under previous law, the Corps of Engineers had authority to construct small flood protection projects not otherwise specifically authorized, with a \$1 million limit on each project and an annual program limit of \$25 million.

The revised law increases the annual authorization to \$30 million and the individual project limit to \$2 million to protect areas designated within the previous five years as a major disaster area.

EMERGENCY BANKS PROTECTION WORKS

The law increases the monetary limit on emergency bank protection works undertaken by the Corps of Engineers from \$50,000 to \$250,000 for an individual project and would raise the annual program limits from \$1 million to \$10 million. It also expands existing emergency authority to include shoreline protection works.

MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL WATER TREATMENT PLANTS

The Act authorizes the Secretary of the Army, after consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency, to contribute to the cost of constructing municipal or regional sewage treatment plants to handle waste from Corps of Engineer recreational areas, where such contribution is more economical than constructing a separate plant.

ANNUAL INSTALLMENT OF LOCAL SPONSOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The Secretary of the Army is authorized to allow cash

contributions, now required of nonfederal public bodies prior to construction of a water resources project, to be made in annual installments during construction. This provision will ease the financial burden now being placed on sponsors of projects which may take several years to complete.

DISASTER RELIEF

The Act amends the Disaster Relief Act to provide that the cost of replacing certain community services following a natural disaster to include those costs incurred in obtaining substitute services during the period of repair and reconstruction, to the degree that those costs exceed what would otherwise have been incurred.

SMALL BOAT HARBORS

The Act amends existing law to provide for Federal payment of all costs of maintaining and operating the general navigation features of small boat harbors.

OTHER PROVISIONS

Other provisions in the Act are those which:

Amend the Federal Project Recreation Act to increase the Federal share of separable costs for fish and wildlife enhancement from 50 to 75 percent.

Require the Secretary of the Army to study the need for, and means of providing, visitor protection services at water resources development projects under jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers and to report findings by December 31, 1974.

Authorize a program of general assistance to States in

planning for development, utilization and conservation of water and related resources, with \$2 million authorized to fund it.

Establish a policy on Federal replacement of roads in water resources project areas which would permit upgrading of the construction standards if requested by the State, but with the provision that the State would bear the cost resulting from such upgrading.

The Susquehanna River Basin is not mentioned in the Act.

